

established pursuant to § 342.3 of this chapter must allege reasonable grounds for asserting that the rate violates the applicable ceiling level, or that the rate increase is so substantially in excess of the actual cost increases incurred by the carrier that the rate is unjust and unreasonable, or that the rate decrease is so substantially less than the actual cost decrease incurred by the carrier that the rate is unjust and unreasonable. In addition to meeting the requirements of the section, a complaint must also comply with all the requirements of § 385.206, except § 385.206(b)(1) and (2).

(2) *Rates established under § 342.4(c) of this chapter.* A protest or complaint filed against a rate proposed or established under § 342.4(c) of this chapter must allege reasonable grounds for asserting that the rate is so substantially in excess of the actual cost increases incurred by the carrier that the rate is unjust and unreasonable. In addition to meeting the requirements of the section, a complaint must also comply with all the requirements of § 385.206, except § 385.206(b)(1) and (2).

(3) *Non-rate matters.* A protest or complaint filed against a carrier's operations or practices, other than rates, must allege reasonable grounds for asserting that the operations or practices violate a provision of the Interstate Commerce Act, or of the Commission's regulations. In addition to meeting the requirements of this section, a complaint must also comply with the requirements of § 385.206.

(4) A protest or complaint that does not meet the requirements of paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), or (c)(3) of this section, whichever is applicable, will be dismissed.

[Order 561, 58 FR 58780, Nov. 4, 1993, as amended by Order 602, 64 FR 17097, Apr. 8, 1999; Order 606, 64 FR 44405, Aug. 16, 1999]

§ 343.3 Filing of protests and responses.

(a) *Protests.* Any protest pursuant to section 15(7) of the Interstate Commerce Act must be filed not later than 15 days after the filing of a tariff publication. If the carrier submits a separate letter with the filing, providing a telefax number and contact person, and requesting all protests to be telefaxed

to the carrier by a protestant, any protest must be so telefaxed to the pipeline at the time the protest is filed with the Commission. Only persons with a substantial economic interest in the tariff filing may file a protest to a tariff filing pursuant to the Interstate Commerce Act. Along with the protest, the protestant must file a verified statement which must contain a reasonably detailed description of the nature and substance of the protestant's substantial economic interest in the tariff filing.

(b) *Responses.* The carrier may file a response to a protest no later than 5 days from the filing of the protest.

(c) *Commission action.* Commission action, including any hearings or other proceedings, on a protest will be limited to the issues raised in such protest. If a filing is protested, before the effective date of the tariff publication or within 30 days of the tariff filing, whichever is later, the Commission will determine whether to suspend the tariff and initiate a formal investigation.

(d) *Termination of investigation.* Withdrawal of the protest, or protests, that caused the initiation of an investigation automatically terminates the investigation.

[Order 561, 58 FR 58780, Nov. 4, 1993, as amended by Order 561-A, 59 FR 40256, Aug. 8, 1994]

§ 343.4 Procedure on complaints.

(a) *Responses.* The carrier must file an answer to a complaint filed pursuant to section 13(1) of the Interstate Commerce Act within 20 days after the filing of the complaint in accordance with Rule 206.

(b) *Commission action.* Commission action, including any hearings or other proceedings, on a complaint will be limited to the issues raised in the complaint.

[Order 561, 58 FR 58780, Nov. 4, 1993, as amended by Order 602, 64 FR 17097, Apr. 8, 1999]

§ 343.5 Required negotiations.

The Commission or other decisional authority may require parties to enter into good faith negotiations to settle oil pipeline rate matters. The Commission will refer all protested rate filings